

FRS NEWSLETTER

Volume 3: Issue # 23- September 1999

Dear FRS-Holland Friend!

Let's first start mentioning two letters we received this Summer. One was from Thorsten Brandenburg who agreed with my view as expressed in FRS Newscorner #22 regarding changing listener's habits, lack of support etc. Thanks Thorsten. And one Scottish listener thanked us for sending in the FRS Newsletter, even when he hadn't paid his annual fee yet. He asked himself which other mag/newletter would do this for its readers... You know the answer!

The 1999 Summer is one to remember. Weather wise but also radio wise. For those interested in offshore radio it certainly was a *noisefest Summer*, in particular the month of August. In the UK we had the two RNI & Caroline RSLs and in the Netherlands the unexpected and fantastic temporary return of the old Radio Veronica on 1224 kHz AM. I for myself was in the lucky circumstance to see/visit both RSLs in the UK and the Veronica broadcast in Hilversum. I was on the Mebo 3, the Root Revenge, in the Mandrino studio (satellite service Clubradio) and in Hotel Lapershoek (Veronica). It was indeed a great time and I enjoyed every minute. Offshore Radio still has a great impact after all those years...

73s.

Peter W.

Special announcement: due to computer problems, this issue was sent two weeks later as opposed to the original deadline which was the 15th of September. Apologies. The Made in Holland column is cancelled. However, a substantial part of this edition is devoted to Dutch radio! There's one advantage of coming out later: we have been able to include a few highly interesting newswires just before going to the printer!

And finally: As from the October 1st onwards the following Email address is valid: <frak55@freemal.nl>. The other one <frak@intern.nl> remains the same for the time being. Also the site-address will be changing: <www.freemal.nl/home/frak55@freemal.nl>. You may use: <http://listen.sffish> as well!

FRS NEWSCORNER

FRS-Holland (Future) Activities

No activities whatsoever took place this Summer. Although we announced a few nighttime times, we kept silent in the past months. Things will change in October when we plan to celebrate our 19th birthday. This could be the final FRS broadcast in this millennium. Could be because there's still some chance FRS-Holland will hit the newswires in either November or December.

For the first time since January 24th 1999 FRS-H will be active on SW. I can't recall a year there was such long period between two broadcasts! In the previous edition I tried to explain the situation we were in, so it's of no use to make any further explanations. Nothing has changed. Hopefully (and that's most important!) October will see the start of a new series of FRS-Holland broadcasts. One thing is for sure: we're ready to rock the bands with the familiar, wide variety of FRS programming including our well-known philosophy being "A Balance between Music & Information". Believe me: all of us are motivated the very best in SW Pro Radio. At the moment you read this, it's uncertain on what date we will hit the airwaves. Normally it would be the 3rd Sunday but there's a possibility it will take place one or two weeks later. That means most likely FRS-Holland will be on Sunday October 24th or 31st at 48 mHz on 6240 kHz. Pss will be running between 10.00-14.00 CET, or perhaps even a little bit longer. Expect the usual mix of 80s/90s music, a birthday (millennium?) competition and much more. Put it on your calendar and tune in, it'll be a great Sunday and that's a promise! Don't miss, we have something in store! For more info take a look at our website: <http://listen.sffish>. In addition to the October activities we will carry out one or two nighttime times in the weeks to come. This time it's not perhaps but 100% for sure. There could take place on either 48 or 26 meters. Time: early in the morning (04.00/ 05.00 CET) or late in the evening (01.00/ 02.00 CET). Most likely it'll be a frequency within 48 meters. Of course you will be informed by Email provided your Email address is listed in our SW address book. If not, send an Email to: <FRSH@intern.com> or <pete.vanhouzen@tjip.nl>.

New Jingles

In October we will introduce our new set of jingles. As we know there are a lot of jingle enthusiasts among our listening audience, we decided (already one year ago) to produce a *FRS-Holland jingle CD*. All jingles between 1980 and 1999 had to be catalogued and archived (on MiniDisc), a great job which has now been finished. With this new CD we hope to come with something which is not only any number of FRS jingles but a carefully selected series giving you insight in the eventful FRS jingle history. It's our intention this CD will be the first of a series. For details check our site, drop us a line (Herten P.O.Box 2723 address), read the

December FRS Newsletter or listen to our October broadcast when a promo will be aired.

SW FREE RADIO SCENE

General

In this SW section we cover the period late June - September 26th 1999. What made the news? Certainly not the SW propagation which was - as predicted - quite poor during the Summer months. Not a surprise. Following the raid on German Radio Nordsee, two more stations were raided: the Ferner from Holland and Radio Al. Int. The latter was forwarding news in one of Holland's major daily's!

THE FREE RADIO NEWS

RADIO ALFA LIMA INT. (3) started a series of tests on 19 meters by the end of August. August 22nd at 06.30 UTC the station was logged on 15030 kHz. However, the "party" wouldn't last for long. The CF wasn't aware of the fact that 15030 is a freq being used by the British RAF. Sun August 29th RAL was raided around 07.15 UTC during a transmission on 15030 kHz. The Dutch RDR accompanied by police confiscated broadcasting equipment. Main victim was the huge powerful Rohde & Schwarz tx. Not the complete unit was confiscated but vital parts were taken out. According to an Email received on August 22nd (sent by the RAL OP) RAL was intending to start regular tests on 15 MHz. In that same Email it was mentioned that the R & S tx was running on 450W which was not full power being 750W! RAL has the dubious honour of being the first-ever European SW pirate raided on 19 meters. The reason for the raid is obviously complaints from the RAF. With the powerful tx, RAL was interfering with RAF radio traffic on 15030. As far as we know the RAF warned the Dutch authorities already August 22nd, the day RAL started tests on 15 MHz. You may conclude that immediate action was undertaken and a raid that same day was a near thing. Only because of leaving the airwaves a bit too quick (for the authorities), the raid was postponed for one week. The raid was front page news, one of Holland's major national newspapers, "de Telegraaf" carried an item concerning the raid as it Monday August 30th covered. Also the regional "Drense Courant" covered the news. The underlying idea is that A) authorities will undertake immediate action in case any pirate is interfering with any major frequency and as a result B) any SW pirate should investigate whether any so far unused freq is safe for testing purposes. Remarkable is that RAL broadcasted for nearly two years almost on a weekly basis on 48 mHz without any authority interference. Within one week the station was raided because of using a RAF frequency.... Conclusion: the Dutch SW pirates are certainly not on top of the RDR's list! Provided you are not using any vital frequency used by a authority body. One week after the broadcast, Sat Sept. 4th at the evening hours, RAL returned with a new tx on 6250. Sun Sept. 12th an antenna test was heard on 6275. For the past two years RAL was a very regular 48 mHz unit, mainly on the early Sun morning. A visit to RAL's website is worth while including photos of the raid, so check out: <www.listen.sffish> or <http://intern.sffish> or <http://frak55@freemal.nl>. Some final news: The RAL OP sent an Email in which he announces to be regularly active as the 15070-15150 kHz. Sun Sept. 19th RAL was on 15070 and on the 26th on 15140 kHz.

RADIO BANTONICA (3) has been rather inactive during the Summer months. Sun June 27th Bantonica was spotted on 11480 kHz. Sunday Sept. 26th Bantonica was on 11486 kHz with a good signal. Website is: <www.listen.sffish> or <http://intern.sffish>.

A lengthy **BIG L DOCUMENTARY** was heard on 6240 Sat Sun August 14th & 15th commemorating the 32nd anniversary of the M.O.A. It's unknown which station was behind this nostalgia broadcast. Signal-quality was fair/good on the content.

BRITAIN'S BETTER MUSIC STATION was relayed via Good Music Radio on Saturday 3rd July from 07.00 UTC. Freq was 6280 and the broadcast was put out with no less than 200W. Sun July 11th in the early evening BBMS was heard on 3800 with a country show. This time it was a relay via Onese Radio. Sun August 22nd BBMS was again relayed via GMR, this time on 6199. The station is currently looking for a presenter who can do a Swedish/ English 60 min. show. Email us: <bbms@compuserve.co.uk>. Add is 55D Chester Rd, London N19 5 DF in the UK.

RADIO BENELUX was noted on 7480 Sat July 3rd. Four weeks later on Sat July 31st BNL was heard on 6280 with a Merchweider Special. Sat August 14th BNL was testing all night long on 6288 kHz. The station was very active during the Level 48 weekend which was Sept. 10th-12th. Add is P.O.Box 5, 8100 AA Raalte in the Netherlands.

RADIO BLACKBEARD (10) tested with a power of 50W on 6267 Sat August 7th.

RADIO BLUE STAR is one of Holland's premier powerhouses. During

the Summer period the station was often to be heard on 48 metres. A brief summary: July 11th 6306, Sat August 14th on 6262, Sun August 15th in the late afternoon a new tx was tested either 6262 or 6306. The other freq was running in parallel. August 24th (Tuesday) Bluestar tested on 11490, a weak signal was heard. On Sat August 28th the station tested on 11485/51289. Sun August 29th Bluestar was on 6262/6305 kHz. Add is P.O.Box 1104 in 8001 BC Zwolle, the Netherlands. Email: <bluestar@tiscali.nl>.

RADIO BRIGITTE carried out a handful of tests on a variety of freqs: Sat July 3rd 6357, July 4th 6307 and 6907 (3), Sun July 21st 6405, Sun August 1st 6307. Add is P.O.Box 10 in 7594 ZG Rursel.

CLCG was noted on Sun August 15th on 6300 and 6305 with a nice signal. The broadcast started at 6305 but at 09.16 the station switched to 6300. Add is P.O.Box 540191 in D-47151 Duisburg, Germany.

After a long while of inactivity **BRITAIN RADIO INT.** (4) was heard on SW. Sun Sept. 28th the station was heard on 6239 via JRR (which moved from 6235 to 6239 due to utility interference). We are not sure whether this was an old tape, we guess it were fresh pulp! Hopefully BIR will return on a regular basis, would be good for the current SW scene. Hopefully more (and positive) news in the December edition.

RADIO COMMUNICATION (1) was heard testing on 6237 in the afternoon of Sun August 29th.

CRAZY WAVE RADIO was heard with a fine signal on 6260 Sun August 8th. The interesting part featured station OP Chris Lee, Mac Jones and BNL's Jens Martin. A visit to CWR's website is worth while: <www.marsnet.com/cwr>

Rather unique, **RADIO DE TIM** dedicated its complete August 2020 on 6304 kHz (via Radio (previously) show to Klaus Kohler from Oberlorenz. Klaus, a very loyal DR. Tim listener, sent a total of 50 reception reports to Dr. Tim. A nice way of being thanked!

EUROPEAN MUSIC RADIO will be soon back on the airwaves! March 28th E.M.R. was heard for the last time. It was originally intended to return some time in November but the latest news is that EMR will hit the airwaves early October, our guess: Tuesday Oct. 3rd. The EMR programming will include a true last flavour of shows presented in Swedish, French, German, Dutch and English. A new English presenter will be heard on EMR. During the programming regular brief Free Radio spots will be aired. EMR should be on air for at least 24 hours. Freq could be 6210 kHz. EMR is hoping to receive sufficient listener's feedback justifying a continuation of SW activities! So...**DROP A LINE** to P.O.Box 2727, 6049 ZG Hertel! Sun Sept. 19th saw an EMR test on 6306 as early as 06.36 UTC and a week later the station was noted on 6210. The latter broadcast could be in preparation of next SW time!

RECH (3) has been very inactive in recent months. No special reason, the OP has simply taken a long summer break. Expect the station back on SW in the upcoming period. Website: <www.lutzn.de/antoniotholland>. Email address: Email: <antoniotholland@freemail.de>.

THE FARMERS FROM HOLLAND were noted July 11th at 10.49 UTC by the Dutch RDK and police. We were informed that in contrast with previous radio, all studio gear was confiscated, even the CD collection! We have no further details regarding this raid. Fact is that the Farmers didn't have a spare tx and so in a hurry a colleague station was prepared to sell his R&S! If SW is not enough for you, then switch to the Internet and hear them live on Internet: <http://thefarmers>. Read the instructions and be aware you need a so-called plug-in for your Browser (495 KB). This Plug-In can be downloaded on site. Since the end of August the Farmers are on 6288 partly blocking out the religious broadcasts on 6295 SW evenings. Latest news: Sunday Sept. 26th at 13.37 UTC the Farmers were again raised by Dutch authorities! And it seems the RDK/police are hardening their attitude towards the Farmers: witness the fact that all equipment was confiscated including the R&S and antennas, all studio-equipment, CDs and MDs and the antenna! Have a look at their website where you can listen to the final 3 1/2 minutes in RealAudio. You can even download an MP3-File! For your archives... **FREE RADIO** was heard on 6200 Sun August 15th. Address: P.O.Box 48, 7160 AA Nieuwe in the Netherlands.

RADIO FREE LONDON still is one of the most regular SW broadcasters the station was logged Sun June 27th/ July 4th/ 18th/25th/ August 1st/ 15th/ 22nd/ 29th/ Sept. 5th/12th. On the 22nd of August only a carrier was noted pointing at some kind of problem? The addresses are RFL, 101B, Kings Cross Road, London, WC1X 9LP or (4). Email: <RFL@England.com> or <RadioFreeLondon@usa.net>. Check out the RFL web site at: <http://197.61.162.100/uk/rfl.htm> or <www.radiofree.london.com>.

RADIO FRESH AIR 2000 was heard on 6243 20.00-21.00 Sat June 29th. 80's mix was played, unfortunately the audio quality was poor. July 11th saw the station on 6243 via Radio Ornel.

RADIO GALAXY INT. (10) has been quite active in July. Sun June 27th a live evening show was heard on 6306. Power was 30W. July 1st, a Thursday, Galaxy Int. was heard on 6275. Sat July 10th 6306 was in

use with a phone-in show. Galaxy Int. is part of the Free Radio Network, using two tx: one 30 watt mobile rig with an 807 valve and a 130W Heathkit unit running from 240V mains. The 30 watt tx is powered by two car batteries in series producing 24V linked to an inverter providing the 450V HT. The antenna, which is erected on site at the time of the broadcast between two trees is about 20ft in height at the center. The aerial is fed with 75 ohm coax. All Galaxy programmes are live on location from motor vehicles and set up on the night of the broadcast. The two main principal operators are Dave Norris from Radio Blackboard, and Paul Stewart from Station Sierra Sierra, and on occasions, Mark Perry from an FM Pirate Station. All pax are live. Email add: <2407270137@usa.net> or <on.site> or <Free99@hotmail.com>. You should look for the station on 6306 kHz or on 76 metres during Thursday evening/night and midweek nights.

RADIO GERONIMO from the UK put out a 30 min test Sun August 1st around 12.00 UTC using 6260 kHz, then switching to 7400 kHz for a few minutes. August 15th Geronimo was logged on 4760 kHz at 19.40 UTC. Further tests should go out in the evenings on 60 metres on 4760, 4790, 4840, 4860, 4875 or 4890. Try also 31 metres within the 9350- 9390 kHz range during night or dusk. Sunday tests are mainly on 48 & 41 metres. Geronimo is making use of a low-powered 25 watts tx fed into a 4 metre whip aerial. Soon the station will have a UK-based address. For the time being you should write to: P.O.Box 2727, 6049 ZG Hertel! There is an Email address: <galp@geronimo@hotmail.com>.

GOOD MUSIC RADIO can be heard so now and then on 6199 kHz. For instance on Sun Sept. 12th when a fair signal was heard on the continent. GMR can make use of 6199 every other Sunday. In such case Ozone Radio is switching to 5795 kHz.

Swiss station **INTERNATIONAL MUSIC RADIO** was heard a number of times on SW in recent weeks. Sept. 5th IMR was heard on 7400! using 100W of power. Address: P.O.Box 1951, D-79554 Weil am Rhein in Germany.

The **IRRS** from Italy is still active relaying SW Free Radio stations. Pax are going out on 7120 & 5985. One of the new stations relayed via the IRRS is Radio Munchen making its debut test on Sat June 26th on 5985 and 7120. The IRRS was requested during several occasions.

JOEY ROGER RADIO has signed up on internet. You can contact Joe Vincent via Email: <jr@joeyradio.com>. Some comments from JRR: "Some of the Dutch stations have broadcasted next on top of us in the past, and we do not want this to happen again. As we use 6235kHz on a continuous basis, we offer a relay to any other FR station over our transmitter on 6235kHz."

Sat August 28th & 29th **RADIO JOYSTICK** celebrated 14 years of radio activity and was heard on 6261 (24 hours via RFL) via the facilities of RFL. That same day Joystick was also active via the IRRS on 5985 & 7120 (2 hours each). Radio Joystick started in the 1985 Summer. During the birthday shows "Funky Music" was played. In addition station history and extracts from radio broadcasts which used to be a well-known German SW pirate (1980s). Email: <chuck@rad.com>. Sailmail: P.O.Box 102812 in D-45408 Muelheim an Ruhr in Germany.

RADIO KORAK INT. is Holland's #1 broadcaster on 76 mhz. Since Sat June 26th the station was noted every Sat evening on 5910! That means so less than 14 weeks in a row...! The station's programming is live playing a wide variety of pop oldies, signal-quality is excellent. Address is P.O.Box 134, 5780 BC Voorthuizen in the Netherlands.

LASER HOT HITS continues with weekly professionally produced pop-oriented shows on 6235 (via JRR), 6219, 3930 and also regularly on 7415 kHz. Pax are possibly emanating from an Irish site. Sept. 26th saw the station on 7415/60219 and also on 6239 (JRR) and 6300/Add is (8).

LEVEL 48 (P.O.Box 5, 8100 AA Raalte, the Netherlands) is by now a SW radio station among SW FR enthusiasts. A few times in a year, the SW bands are ruled by Level 48 signals, produced by several SW stations and emanating from a wide variety of sites. Friday 10th, Sat 11th and Sunday Sept. 12th was a typical Level 48 weekend. It was in the early PM evening at 19.00 UTC that Dutch powerhouse Spaceman kicked off on 3905, followed by a joint CWR/BNL phone-in broadcast at 22.00 UTC on the same channel. Interesting to know was the fact that the OP of UK-based LWR and WMS were guests in the Spaceman studio. Saturday Level 48 commenced tons on 48 & 41 metres starting at or just after 08.00 UTC. Most of the broadcasts were carried out on or close to 6245 kHz. In addition 6261 & 6275 were used. On 41 metres the Level outlet was monitored on 7400. Noted were CWR, BNL, Rising Star, SWRS 7448 & 6245, Speedway, Radio Borderbuzzer & Corevalk among others. In the evening hours 3905 was again used by Spaceman, Torcvalk and CWR/BNL. The 3rd day of the massive air attack started as early as 06.00 UTC on 6262, 6245 & 6260 were most used freqs that day. Tonsar, Action and Radio Fusion were among the stations being active on behalf of Level 48 (apart from the afore-mentioned ones). Bad luck for Radio Borderbuzzer: on Sat the tx (at that moment on 41 metres) set fire, the PA of a new tx took the same on Sunday! It's certainly positive that so many stations operate under such umbrellas. At the same time it's a pity that only very few freqs are occupied during a Level 48 weekend. This is of course easy for the



listeners but also indicates Level 48 has respect for colleague SW stations! German **RADIO LIPSTICK** have a new site to be found at this address: <www.radio-lipstick.de>

LIVE WIRE RADIO returned on SW 3905 Sat night August 14th/15th. Although it was suggested the station was testing with 20W, we know better. — Sat August 28th Live Wire Radio was heard on 3943, Sat Sept. 18th saw a further test on 3936, this time with low power! Add is 64 Brighton Rd, Leicester LE5 0EA in the UK.

RADIO MARABU was heard a number of times on 6210. This was the case for instance on Sun Sept. 19th, Fri Sept. 24th and Sat the 25th. Signal-quality is mostly fair/good. Pts are professionally produced with a wide variety of independent alternative music. Marabu transmits over various AM & FM relays all over Europe. Address: Box 1166, D-49187 Biele in Germany. Email: <www.merchbiller.de@comcast.de>

The 1999 edition of the **MERCHBILER DX-CAMP** was visited by a great number of stations including Brabant, Specimens, Perfect, Fusion, CWK, Dr. Tim, Torenvalk, Wonderful, Bermuda Duetz, Little Star, IMR, Laguna, Sud-West Radio (not active anymore), Flamingo, Stardust, Star Club Radio, Record Radio, SWRS, Breakdown, Barones, Polikawell, Flawon, PTT, Team Khatzianas, Noname, Asterix, Dextro, Friendship, Obelia, Mutterhorn - Tx to Dr. Tim for this list.

RADIO NEW WORLD (collaboration Torenvalk) tested on 6270 in the late afternoon of Sat July 3rd. Sun July 4th New World was on 6281/6304 kHz. Due to interference from the Farmers a switch was made from 6281 to 6261. Address: P.O.Box 94 in 7038 ZH Zeeland or P.O.Box 21 in 7010 AA Gassenden.

NORTHERN MUSIC RADIO (10) was heard on Sun August 29th 6274. Sat August 28th **RADIO NORTHEAST RSL** was heard on 6206 kHz in the evening hours. It was a relay from the lightweight Mebo 3 broadcasting off Clacton-on-Sea on 1575 kHz in August. No idea which station was responsible for this relay. Who can help us?

A Dutch station calling itself **RADIO NOVA** was heard Sat August 28th and Sept. 11th on 3935. The station has been off air for a while but from now on irregular gas will be put out on 76 meters. Add is P.O.Box 128, NL-9410 AC Bellen.

OZONE RADIO was noted with a modulation test on 6258 Tuesday July 6th. Sun August 8th 5797 was in use and earlier that date also 6192. Add: see BBMS.

RADIO PANDORA (10) was heard on various freqs during a number of July weekends. Sun July 4th 6207, July 10th 6254, July 11th 6207, August 15th 6275. During the latter occasion pandoras celebrated 4 years of SW broadcasting. Congratulations! Sat Sept. 18th the birthday broadcast was repeated on 3905, presumably via the SWRS in the UK.

PIRATE CONNECTION now has two Email addresses: <PirateCon@PirateAll.com> and the old <PirateConnection@radio.com>. Thursday August 5th in the evening hours **RADIO POLDERPIRAAT** was monitored on 6301 kHz. The station's OP makes use of a Collins LC capable of 1.6 kW (10) output but so far power was limited to a "mere" 350W. Polderpiert started in 1983 on 1602 AM under the name Truckstar. At present time the station can be heard every 3rd Sun on 1614 kHz and every 1st Sun on 6300. Address: RPP, P.O.Box 2417, 8205 AK Lelystad, Sun August 8th saw RPP on 6301kHz.

RADIO PTT is a joint venture run by 3 stations: Radio Perfect, Dr. Tim and Torenvalk. Some time ago 6254 kHz was used via Radio Torenvalk's powerful circuit. Address: see Radio Torenvalk.

ROCK-IT RADIO have a new website. They are still rebroadcast 24 hours a day in real audio. They are also being relayed at time on shorewave via the SWRS. Website: <www.rockradio.net>

SCANDINAVIAN LIGHTHOUSE (1) made it on 6240 Sun July 25th. The station's signal emanating from Scandinavia bridged a distance of no less than 1500 km being received in Germany!

Sun August 29th saw **SKYLINE** testing on 6205 kHz. Email address: <Skyline@btinternet.com>

With a handful of broadcasts German **STAR CLUB RADIO** (1) celebrated its 10th birthday. Congratulations! Fri August 27th SCR was relayed via the SWRS on 7465 and 1470U. Officially the 10th birthday was celebrated Sun August 22nd with a 60 min. show hosted by station founder Roy Clark. The programme was put out by Radio Torenvalk on 6304 kHz. Sun August 22nd SCR was also relayed by BNL on 6260. Sat August 28th saw the station on 3941kHz. Sun Sept 5th 6300 was in use with a Beatles special, a Doos special was announced for the year 2000. Monday Sept. 6th SCR was active on 3906U with a repeat of the birthday show. This time it was relayed via IMR. SCR- The Voice of Germany-offered special birthday QSLs for its 10th birthday broadcasts.

STATION M INTERNATIONAL which was active during the 70s/80s, wants to return on SW. Regular broadcasts were planned, but station engineer Tom Lodge sadly died in the age of 44 in July of this year. Now, Station M International is looking for a free relay from Europe to put out a Tom Lodge tribute. Email: <frs@stationm-international.de>

SWRS is active most weekends relaying a great number of Int. SW Free

Radio stations. During a number of occasions in July 21800U was being used. Sat July 16th - Sun July 11th saw the relay of a new station **Highlands Classic Rock**. Other newcomers are **RTPOE** being heard Sat July 24th, **HKMS Scherpen** on Sat August 28th and **Harold Krishna's Music** on Fri Sept. 3rd. **SWRS** can be reached via c/o Play DX, Via Davanzoli 8, IT-20158 Milano, Italy, or by Email: <play@usa.net>. Homepage: <listen.to/rtpoe>

Sunday Sept. 12th **RADIO TORENVALK** put out a programme in which the OP expressed his personal view about the current state of the Free Radio scene. He stated that the audience of Dutch police stations are mainly other operators of such type of stations, 70% of those who write have written before and the remaining 30% are QSL-hunters. He also said that (and this is interesting!) Free Radio stations must bring a different type of programming compared to legal stations justifying their existence. But, most stations are not able to bring any different format. In his view a lot of stations don't take Free Radio seriously. Just look at some powerhouses spluttering all over the band and even interfering with each other. It's sad to say but it seems he's right!! Address: P.O.Box 94, 7038 ZH in Zeeland. Sat Sept. 12th **TRANSATLANTIC RADIO** tested on 3910 with non-stop music and a good signal. The station has been fairly active during the Summer period. One day later TAR was noted on 6296 kHz. Add is P.O.Box 4427 in 3006 AK Rotterdam.

UK RADIO continues on 6286 and in addition was heard a few times on 6243 kHz. Audio is often too low. Add is P.O.Box 53, Bilsante WV14 6TS, Wolverhampton, UK.

UNION RADIO is now using P.O.Box 663, 7900 AR in Hoogeveen. No more confused, hallo! During the whole Summer period Union remained silent, regular SW tries will soon recommence. A lengthy test was aired on 6210 Sun August 15th. In addition the station tested with a strong signal on 6222 kHz Sun Sept. 19th and on 6210 Sun Sept. 26th.

VOEGELIEN RADIO is a kind of Internet online magazine and the current update justifies a visit to this interesting site at <www.voegeliensradio.nl>

VOICE OF THE NETHERLANDS (7) was heard on Sat July 3rd on 6286 and on July 4th on 7484 kHz. During the latter broadcast the big tx was used giving an output of several hundred watts. Sat July 24th 6280 was in use (100W) and Sun Sept. 5th 6270 kHz. Email: <voice@net.nl>

RADIO WAVES INT. (4) was putting out pps on 7450 kHz Sun July 11th. Sun Sept. 26th RWT was heard on good old 11401 kHz. Soon (November) the station will be celebrating its anniversary.

WEEKEND MUSIC RADIO can be regularly heard on 7460 kHz. During the following dates WMR was active on 41 metres: Sun June 27th/ July 11th/ July 25th/ Sat August 14th & 15th/ Sat August 29th/ Sun Sept. 12th. Power is unknown but certainly not as high as it used to be some years ago. Signal on the continent varies between poor and fair. Sun Sept. 26th WMR was heard all day long. AT 14:10 UTC 7460 was switched off and the station re-appeared on 7465 kHz.

WGFP stands for **WE GO FOR PIRACY** (10) and was noted with a test on 6223/5 Sun June 27th. It is said power was in the region of 250W. No further details.

RADIO WONDERFUL was noted on 3925 Sat Sept. 11th and Sun 12th on 6261 and 6216 (not in /). Wonderful was heard celebrating its 5th anniversary. Congratulations! Sat Sept. 18th saw more repeats of the birthday shows on 3941 and 3985 kHz. The station can be reached via <Wonderful52@hotmail.com>. Saastrail add is P.O.Box 520112 in D-44207 Dortmund, Germany.

OFFSHORE NEWS

August is for many offshore fans a very special and often emotional month and 1999 was even more special than other years because it was 25 years ago that the offshore radio stations Radio Veronica, Northsea and Atlantic were forced to close down. The infamous Treaty of Strasbourg made an end to 14 years of offshore radio off the Dutch coast. To celebrate this 25th anniversary, two former offshore stations were active in August: R.N.I. (English Service) off Clacton-on-Sea and Radio Veronica in Hilversum! In addition former offshore station Radio Caroline was on the air in Southeast (28 day RSL). These former offshore stations at the same time active, quite unique! FRS Newsletter (and its predecessor, FRS Goes DXO) have a reputation when it comes to Offshore Radio. Therefore in this September edition a comprehensive summary of what happened with RNI & Caroline and in particular with Radio Veronica!

RADIO CAROLINE

Monday July 26th Radio Caroline commenced time on 1503 kHz for a 28-day period. The Ross Revenge was moored at the end of the famous Southport pier, the longest in its kind in Europe. Officially power is limited to a mere watt (ONE Watt) but only 35 minutes after the start of time Caroline was audible in Geeningen in the very northern part of the



Netherlands. As far as we know power was much higher although there was not the case during the full 4 week period. Two spare txs were needed to make sure the Caroline signal continued on 1503. Both txs were hot by lightning! The led tx which was used during the final part of the RSL had only a capacity of 40W.

According to station-manager Peter Moore the 1503 RSL was successful. Many visitors came aboard the Rois to take a look. There were guided tours, sometimes three at the same time! On board also a Caroline shop with a range of T-Shirts, postcards etc. Great stuff for the Caroline supporters and prices were fair. During most weekends Caroline's signal was to be heard via two outlets: the 1503 AM RSL and the satellite outlet (each Sat & Sun 09.00-22.00 CEST). A few times the satellite output was retransmitted from the ship but most 1503 output was presented live from the ship by a number of jocks (Steve Conway, Steve Foster, Sarah Miles among others). August 14th, a very special day in British offshore radio history, a number of special pax were presented by Radio Caroline. The satellite output that day was different from what came from the Rois. In particular Mark Stafford's 4 hour 16.00-20.00 CEST M.O.A. special was worth listening to. The pax contained an interview with Martin Kayne (Caroline North), many offshore extracts etc. And not to forget great 60s music! The satellite signal was picked up in Lithuania and rebroadcast on SW 5935 kHz with no less than 100 kW!

Thursday August 19th it was 10 years ago that the following announcement was heard on 558 kHz AM around midday: *This is Radio Caroline, the radio ship Rois Revenge, anchored in the International waters of the Netherlands. This is a Panamanian vessel being boarded illegally on behalf of the British and Dutch governments. There's a nag alongside and they have already boarded the ship and used violence against crew members.* The complete audio equipment and vital parts of the tx were confiscated, parts of the tx were destroyed. 18 months later the Dutch OGD returned the confiscated equipment. Coincidentally two 1 kW FM txs were among the returned stuff... Caroline ended its successful on Sunday August 22nd at 00.00 BST. During the final day live pax were aired all day on 1503 kHz including the voices of Sarah Miles, David Foster and Steve Conway. They all did a great job but also the volunteers on the ship doing the guided tours and other work. Station-manager Peter Moore was among the crew on the Rois Revenge during the final weekend. The Rois could be visited at the end of the pier until the end of September. Caroline's website is www.radio-caroline.com.

RADIO VERONICA: THE SUCCESSFUL 1999 REVIVAL

The first rumours: Preparations

August 1999 saw the 25th anniversary of the Dutch Treaty of Sanstouwe, the Dutch equivalent of the British M.O.A. Of course, there would be some festivities to commemorate this anniversary but no-one expected an eleven day return of Radio Veronica! Indeed, more than that: most people didn't know the Dutch media law allows people to apply for a special broadcasting licence. Of course, we all know the British RSL, lasting 28 days. Such RSL can be used for either AM or FM broadcast purposes but in all cases with very low power. To cut a long story short: it looked like an implausible story when the first rumours went round about as 11 day Veronica revival on the good old medium wave. The first reports reached us early July. Good news on the one hand when it was announced that the project would be definitively taking place between August 21st and 31st. The vast majority of the programming would consist of rebroadcasting old studio tapes, coming from a grant archive run by former employees Ad Bouman, Jui Geleick and offshore enthusiasts Hans Kroot and Jelle Boonstra. Many former Veronica staff promised to take part in this revival, most of them were wildly enthusiastic about the upcoming transmissions. Key-figures were Ad Bouman, Veronica programme-engineer between 1965 and 1974 and Michael Bakker who's managing-director of Radio Goodland, a regional commercial radio station broadcasting from Hilversum. A number of former Veronica presenters present shows on Goodland and several Goodland personnel helped during the 11-day revival. Many hours of tapes were borrowed to and selected and scheduled had to be put together which old studio-tape would be broadcasted on what day-time. Some of the old staff was on DLT and was re-recorded on MD. A number of people worked day and night to listen to all this nostalgia selecting the right tapes for broadcasting purposes etc.

Frequency

The RDR, based in Groningen, is the Dutch body responsible for allocating frequencies. The "Commissariaat voor de Media" granted permission for a so-called Special Event Licence. The Dutch Nozema, responsible for running all TV, AM, SW and FM txs have a 5 kW tx which can be put into service for special events. The tx, tuned to 585 kHz, is located at the Lopik site in the Coastal part of the Netherlands. However, 585 AM is not allocated to the Netherlands and the RDR refused to release 585 for broadcasting purposes. Even though 585 is a clear channel not used by the country it is allocated to. Thus a new freq had to be found. Originally Veronica was only allowed to broadcast for the province of Utrecht and the greater Leeuwarden area (Leeuwarden is capital of the province of Friesland in the northern part of the

Netherlands). That would imply that two different tx would be running on two different frequencies. The massive publicity however in the Netherlands made clear that many, many people living in all corners of the country would like to receive Veronica's AM signal. The RDR, responsible for allocating the frequency, advised the initiators of the project to talk to Q-Radio's Peter Jansen asking him for permission to make use of Q-Radio's 5 kW spare tx located in Lopik. This tx is tuned to 1224 kHz just like Q-Radio's main 45 kW main tx about the Communicator. Fact was that 1224 AM was NOT used by Q-Radio since mid July... So the Communicator was silent. In the end an application for a licence was submitted in the name of Q-Radio, Sunday August 8th the news reached us that it was (almost) certain that Veronica was allowed to use 1224 kHz with 5 kW. A few days later it was definitively decided the 1224 kHz freq could be used for the 11-day period. The news of the temporary Veronica revival is also to be read in British newspapers. In one publication 1242 is mentioned instead of 1224. The lavista Radio engineer Sauris Virst-almost got a nervous breakdown...

The First Tests/Problems

On August 13th, the first tests on 1224 kHz were commenced. A loop tape with the sound of seagulls was continuously played, this gave many offshore enthusiasts a warm, nostalgic feeling and made their skin crawl. This first test went out with only 1 kW, in most parts of the Netherlands a fair to good signal apart from the north. Also in Gork, Belgium a satisfactory signal. The use of an Orban 9200 Optimized AM processor meant a 4 to 5 dB gain, an improved modulation quality and louder reception. On Wednesday August 18th, tests were continued. A French listener (also reader of this newsletter) picked up the signal. August 19th more tests, in particular the feed between Laperhouk studios and the tx in Lopik. Not only seagulls but also non-stop oldies were aired. In Essex near Kent reception was ok, in Scotland fair, in Belgium and parts of Germany a good signal. On August 20th tests were resumed at 23.30 CEST. What many couldn't know was that the start the next day, the 21st of August-hung by a thread! Without going into detail, the essence of the problem was that a number of agreements which had been made with several authorities, were not in accordance with the normal procedures. One example: the use of the 1224 kHz Q-Radio frequency, Q-Radio was off air as far as terrestrial broadcast was concerned, the station was only audible via cable networks but at the moment any signal would be aired on 1224 the official Q-Radio frequency, this signal had to be in parallel with the cable output. That was not the case, Veronica's output would be totally different from Q-Radio's cable signal. To cut a long story short: at 23.15 CEST Veronica got its definitive permission to start broadcasts the next day. That same evening three Veronica persons- Ad Bouman, Tineke & Joost den Draaier- were interviewed in the M2 show on Dutch TV2.

The First Day

Sunday August 21st 07.00 the sound of offshore radio revived on 1224 kHz. Reception was very satisfactory in the Benelux but also in parts of other countries. In Chacton-on-Sea at the UK north-east coast, reception was fine. The first live show and at the same time the official opening was at noon with Tineke (well-known female presenter on Veronica), Joost den Draaier (Godfather of the Dutch deejays) and station-controller Rob Verwey, aged 89 (!) but still a hale and hearty personality, behind the MD-421 Sennheiser microphones. They were reminiscing about the good old days, that was the same in most other midday live shows in which former presenters acted as guests.

The start/ format

Veronica was on the air 24 hours a day using the slogan "Radio Veronica, 14 years of leading radio. As already mentioned: most of the programmes being aired on 1224 kHz were old studio-tapes which were in an excellent condition! Veronica was permitted to air the old tapes including commercials, even when some of the advertised products are still sold in shops (for instance a number of cigarette brands). In addition a great number of 1999 commercial airtime was booked, August 23rd, night is the middle of the 11-day revival the Dutch Commissariaat voor de Media decided that all tobacco commercials had to disappear. Results all scheduled studio programme tapes had to be monitored looking for tobacco commercials. Veronica solved the "problem" by inserting the sound of seagulls at the moment a tobacco commercial was played in any of the old shows.

Every day between 12.00-14.00 CEST live pax were hosted by former Veronica employees. On some days also between 14.00-16.00 hours. Every evening between 20.00-22.00 a special was broadcasted: a show about the Veronica jingle history, singing Veronica deejays (a number had a short-lived jingle career), the soundscapers, History of Offshore Radio, the Adje Bouman Top 10 (a very famous programme within a programme Veronica programme engineers etc. Very interesting in the Prog. On August 23rd live show between 20.00-22.00 about singing deejays very obscure stuff was being played. For instance a Dutch remake of "We love the pirate stations." Listening to the radio, hearing the live shows, you could clearly hear the background noise of the visitors in the studio, present in large numbers. Wednesday August 25th between 8 and

10 in the evening attention is paid to "the other offshore radio stations. The history of Offshore Radio in a nutshell. Many unique records from the 60s, extracts, jingles... Thursday August 26th between 20 and 21 hours a survey of the history of the radio jungle. In the next hour the history of the Veronica jingles. Great stuff for any keen radio enthusiast! Guests in the studio: Jelle Boonstra ("Society radio jingles and themes"), Ron Groot (Top Format Productions and former RNI presenter Hans "Mr. Jangle" Hoogendoorn. Between 07.00 and 18.00 hours newbulletins were to be heard. As an extra service Veronica brought some news from the particular year between 1960 and 1974. Every time a new topic was going to be played, a promo with the very familiar voice of Tom Collas (former Veronica jockey) was heard announcing the following text: "Radio Veronica, 14 years of leading radio. You're going to listen to a historic programme. All situations, names, times and commercials are not applicable."

Location/Equipment

The Veronica time came from the basement of Hotel Laperhoek situated in Hilversum where once the Veronica studio was housed. A nostalgic location: The studio consisted of mainly studio equipment used in the Veronica studios before 1974: An old Philips mixing console, Akai tape recorders.

The Norderey Foundation has been founded by Ad Bouman. It's main purpose is to carefully save all former Veronica equipment and bring it back in the best possible condition. The Foundation possesses several tape machines, mixing desks, microphones and record decks.

Garrard record decks, Sennheiser microphones, in those days sophisticated gear! Modern equipment was also used: two CD players, an extra mixing console and an MD player. There were plans to have also a number of live time being broadcasted from the good ship Norderey but in the end it appeared to be too expensive. Too bad because the Norderey was Veronica's flagship and ship from the mid 60s till the end in 1974. By the way, the Norderey has a new fresh layer of paint. The ship is anchored in Leeuwarden, Friesland.

Visitors

During the complete period of broadcasts except the final day (Tuesday August 31st) former Veronica supporters could attend the studio in the basement of the hotel. More than 10,000 visitors were counted in the end! Veronica T-Shirts and posters were re-printed, all was for sale in a Veronica stand. And... as a result of the great success the foundation 'Vereniging van Veronica (Friends of Veronica)' has been founded. Address: the old (N) Veronica address being P.O. Box 218 in Hilversum. Purpose of the Foundation is to organize annual meetings, exhibitions, reprinting posters, stickers, T-Shirts etc.

Response from Listeners

Response was overwhelming. From all corners of the world. Thanks to the Internet, many Dutchmen abroad were able to listen. A great number of Emails, many it was unbelievable how many emotions were stirred up. And then all the hundreds of messages in the newsgroup <nl-media.radio>. But in the first place of course the 10,000+ visitors who travelled to Hilversum to take a look in the Veronica studio. It is perhaps a bit far-fetched but certainly true: many Veronica listeners lived in a haze during those 11 days.

Press/Media Coverage

Several Dutch national newspapers paid attention to the Veronica broadcasts. This resulted in full-page articles! Also TV and radio covered the revival. On the first day of broadcasts, no less than 4 TV crews were shooting pictures.

On the Internet, photos are to be seen via the well-known professional quality site of Martin van de Ven <<http://www.offshoreroadio.nl>> but also pictures of the tv, the Logo site and 85 more stations tower via the Neuma site <www.neuma.nl>

Arrive Classic Rock! Internet

Joost dea Draxler, the one who introduced the top 40 on Veronica early 1965, was so enthusiastic that he decided to re-broadcast each night two hours of (mainly live) Veronica via Arrow Classic Rock. Just for your information, he's the main ARC shareholder! ARC broadcasts on 828 kHz 24 hours a day 7 days a week with the best in classic rock. Between Monday August 23rd and Wednesday September 1st ARC repeated two hours of Veronica each night between 00.00-02.00 CET. For the those taping that as usual chance provided they could catch Arrow via cable: in that case the quality of the recordings was superb! Also via the Internet the Veronica broadcasts were to be heard, day in, day out, 24 hours.

Some names

So many former Veronica people took part: Ad Bouman (organizer), Eddie Becker, Chiel Montagne, Lex Harding, Tineke, Joost dea Draxler, Gerard de Vries, Anouk, Dick Klees, Bart van Leeuwen, Krijn Tonting, Tom Mulder, Tom Collas, Jan van Veen, Jari Geleick, Sietse Gaudier, Dick Bol, Jo Hooge, Jurg van Boon, Rudi Westendorp, Arnd Langebeek, Atze Verstra, Nol Van, Rudi Doets, Robbe Dalt. The latter was not able to come to Hilversum but was interviewed via telephone. Nowadays Robbe is running his business from Spain

The final day

Saturday August 31st 1974 Radio Veronica closed down on 538m at exactly 18.00 hours. August 31st 1999 the close down of the 11-day revival was at the same time as it was 25 years ago: 18.00 hours. During that Tuesday no visitors were allowed in the studio. Admission was by invitation only: former staff and a handful of guests. The final Veronica Tipparade from August 31st 1974 was repeated (containing farewell messages of many famous Dutch artists) and between 13.00- 14.00 a repeat of Veronica's final hour presented by former programme-controller Rob Ott. Between 14.00-18.00 a live reunion party was broadcasted in which many of the former presenters and programme-engineers played an active role. Pure nostalgia! And... a great atmosphere in Hotel Laperhoek. Old anecdotes monopolized conversations between former colleagues. The final record was "Family Affair" by Sly and the Family Stone. According to Ad Bouman the old Veronica (as an offshore station) was once big family. At 18.00 CET Veronica closed down with that same jingle which ended Veronica's offshore period in 1974. Only... this time all people in the studio were singing along with the familiar filler Veronica... Veronica... Veronica... Veronica... no later, everyone felt good. It had been eleven fantastic days. No-one had expected such a massive support from listeners and the media. Thousands enjoyed the nostalgia coming out of their radios from a station which once was their favourite. A more worthy celebration of the 25th anniversary of the close down of Radio Veronica was hardly imaginable.

HET STEENEN TIJDPERK

Public Dutch radio station Radio 2 (equivalent of BBC 2) putting out a MOR format, paid attention to a number of famous radio stations in July and August. Every Sunday afternoon between 14.00-16.00 HET Steenen Tijdperk rules the FM airwaves. No doubt it's the best Dutch offer show not only because of the musical output but also because of the wealth of data. Often it's dedicated to an artist or musical topic. Starting on Sun July 18th a series of radio station specials were aired. On the 18th Radio Caroline, a week later Radio Luxemburg, August 1st Radio London, on the 8th Hilversum 3 (started in 1965 as Radio Veronica's counterpart), on the 15th radio Noordzee and finally on the 22nd Radio Veronica. An excellent series including great music, ps extracts, jingles, interviews and above all valuable background info. FRS Sales Productions offers tapes including all (5) specials. Website: <www.vrn.nl/steenentijdperk>

RADIO NOORDZEE

Tuesday August 31st the former presenting staff of R.N.I. Dutch Service had a reunion in the building of Steengholf in Nauden. Specially for this occasion a seldom-used of the Mido II was transported from the Dutch Omroepmuseum to the Steengholf building. For those who do not know what Steengholf stands for: it is a media publishing company responsible for running the Dutch R.N.I. service in the period 1970-1974.

R.N.I. JINGLE CD

At the end of August we received the following Email announcing the introduction of a brandnew jingle CD.

"Dear jangle-lover,

On August 31 1999 the "Society radio jingles and themes" again brings out a very unique CD. The title: >"Radio Noordzee international - jingles 1970-1974". This letter is meant to inform you about this CD and how to order this definitive collection Radio Noordzee Jingles, digital remastered on CD. In a search lasting several months the Society discovered a great amount of master and session-tapes from the Noordzee-jingles. We compiled a CD from it which contains very unique recordings, which we release in our own management. Some jingles were even never heard on the former pirate >radio Radio Noordzee itself! The CD is released with the approval of the (by that time) owner of Radio Noordzee International: Steengholf in Nauden (Holland/The Netherlands). This CD (36 minutes long) is not for sale in any kind of shop inside or outside the Netherlands, but is only for sale at the Society radio jingles and themes. On this CD you can listen to the first sung RNI jingles, productions from Ferry Mast, Bolland & Bolland, unique on-board-material from Hans Hoogendoorn, jingles recorded by The Dyke Brothers, the original Treutenschijf jingle, the Sonovox jingles from Ken Justus (USA), these complete jinglepackages: "Ook in de auto", "Prijpewert" and "Goud", the very last Noordzee promo: "Radio Noordzee international jingles 1970 - 1974" is an exclusive release from the Society radio jingles and themes.

How to order

Outside The Netherlands: Please send ONLY CASH MONEY BY REGISTERED MAIL to: The Society Radio Jingles and Themes, Benno Rooze, Blaauw 79, 4814 JH Breda, The Netherlands. Don't forget to write down your own name and address and the country. Please allow us 14 working-days for guaranteed delivery. The price of this unique CD: 10 British Pounds/ 20 US Dollars (\$/100 French Francs (FFr)/ 35 German Marks (DM)/ 60 Dutch Guilder (Gld). Post & packaging is included. Order now, the edition is limited! With warm regards from the Netherlands. That's what we wanted you to know. We hope you don't mind us telling you that. Warm regards, Jelle Boonstra, Benno Rooze, Maarten Schurjes, Society Radio Jingles and Themes, The Netherlands."

RADIO NORTHEAST INT. RSL IN AUGUST

In issue 22 we published a lot of info regarding the RNI project. Here's a supplement. Monday July 19th work on the Lightship #16, renamed in Mebo 3 and converted into a radio vessel, was nearly completed. At last a new antenna tower was erected and it was hoped to sail to its mooring on Thursday July 29th. Many local and nationally known companies gave their support to RNI who were on air to celebrate the 175th anniversary of the RNLi (Royal National Lifeboat Institute). Tuesday August 3rd at midnight Alan West opened up RNI's 1575 broadcasts. A revival of the English language broadcasts they were broadcasting in the 1970 summer. The Mebo III vessel was not anchored off Clacton-on-Sea. A few days earlier the Safety Agency didn't give permission to sail the ship to open seas as she was not seaworthy. And so the start of the project came from Harwich harbour. And yes, within 60 minutes the RNI signal was received in the northern part of the Netherlands. One word I hear you say? After 13 hours of broadcasts RNI is forced to leave the airwaves. Reason: the broadcast licence in combination with the frequency of 1575 kHz was issued for broadcasting from an exact position off Clacton. Not for broadcasts from a harbour! The broadcasts were an invasion of the conditions formulated by the Radio Authority. And if this was not enough there was also a second problem: RNI was broadcasting off channel. Caroline people advised organizer Paul Graham not to anchor off Clacton. The RNI Revenge was moored off Clacton in 1995 and had serious problems with the tendering to the ship. Paul was advised to moor the ship at the end of the pier in Clacton. But Paul really wanted to get out on the high seas and was determined to do so. In the end the ship could sail to the original position off Clacton and during the Tuesday evening news 20.00 hour news it was said that the ship now was at its predestined position. The failed start was in one way positive: RNI, as in the news... Reception at the Dutch westcoast was fine, especially when using a loop aerial. It was intended to have the 1575 kHz signal rebroadcast on 1584 via a commercial regional Dutch station and on 7415 by Allan Wiener's WBCQ. 1584 remained silent during the 28-day RSL period. A joke though: how would it be possible to deliver a quality AM signal to Utrecht where the 1584 tx is located? August 14th, an outstanding day to recommence the past, RNI came up with a comprehensive history of the station with extracts. This story will be soon (?) available via the reborn East Anglia Productions. Bob LeRoi (who also read the news that day) produced a special Fort-band radio in the 1960s. Several familiar names were said to take part in the RSL broadcast: Alan West, Bob Noakes, Dave Rodgers, Martin Kayne, Andy Archer, Robin Banks, Roger Day, Mark Watley (all former RNI jockeys), Kevin Turner, Paul McGee, Ray Anderson, Dennis Jason Bob Le Roi, Paul Graham, Phil Mitchell, Norman Burnington and Dick Palmer. In the end many didn't turn up for different reasons. Sad but true. Alan West left the project mid August due to internal difficulties regarding the format. Peter Verbruggen visited Clacton-on-Sea August 22nd and talked to EAP's Ray Anderson who was on the famous Clacton pier where EAP had a sales stand selling all kind of memorabilia. He admitted that this RSL had much less impact than the Radio London one two years ago. Much less publicity was given to the RSL and when walking in Clacton nothing reminded one to the RNI broadcast 2 miles off the coast. From PV's hotel he could easily view the little red ship, PV and two friends made a little trip to the ship that Saturday when the sea was very calm. For about 60 minutes he was aboard the Mebo III and had a look in the studios and other parts of the ship. It all looked quite impressive, you could see a lot of work had been carried out to convert the former Lightship into a broadcasting vessel. In the studio no CD players but two record decks, a Gates mixer and cartridge machines. Most stuff was played from singles and albums and the playlist was exactly the same as it was in that same weeks 29 years ago (summer of 1970). Although the ship was visited by several enthusiasts, it just did not have that impact the Big L project certainly had! Too bad... It remained a fact Paul Graham and "his crew" did a great job. Compliments! For the final 4 days of the broadcast RNI was available via live streaming audio on the internet, thanks to McConact and Chip Support. The station was also live on shortwave (just like the original RNI) thanks to the internet link and to WBCQ (wbcq.com) on 7415 kHz. Monday 30th August was RNI's final day and the following pots were aired that day: 0600-0900 Paul McLear's 0600-1200 Phil Mitchell 1200-1400 The RNI Story 1400-1700 Dave Rogers 1700-2000 Graham Vase including at 19.05 The Jeff Lynne Connection 2000-2100 Beatles vs. Stevie Wonder 21.05 The Paul McCartney 21.20-2300 The RNI Story 2300-2400 Goodbye RNI and at 2400 closdown (for good?). Available from October will be the RNI Picture Souvenir Book with over 200 photographs of the 'Mebo 3', the DeJays and photos of the ship being prepared in Harwich harbour and the story of how the project came to be. For just £ 9.99 you can have a little piece of RNI in 1999 to keep and treasure over the years. This book will be a limited edition issue and only a few hundred will be available, individually numbered. So for your copies of the RNI Picture Souvenir Book, send a cheque or postal order for £ 9.99 to RNI Book Office, 73B, Connaught Avenue, Frinton-on-Sea, Essex CO13 9DD. All cheques payable to Radio Northeast International,

and own your own memories of RNI in 1999. A donation will be made to the RNLi from sales of the RNI Picture Souvenir Book. A list of RNI in 1999 memorabilia will be sent to all who order the RNI Picture Souvenir Book. Anyone else who would like a copy of the list of memorabilia, please send an SAE to the Frinton address, above. The RNI Story is available on 2 CDs for £ 21.99 from East Anglia Productions, 21-23 Walton Road, Frinton-on-Sea, Essex CO13 9AA, UK. Credit card hotline: 01255 676252 / International: (+44)1255 676252 Email: car@connaught.com

RADIO SCOTLAND RSL NEXT YEAR

The Radio Scotland RSL will be taking place in the new millennium. Broadcasts will be done from studios in Glasgow. Many former staff will be attending this event, some of them coming from as far as Australia and Canada! Most of them still work in the radio industry. Here are a few names having promised to take part: Jimmy Mack, Jack McLaughlin, Richard Park, Steve Merrick, Mel Howard, John Kerr, Bryan Vaughn, Ben Healy, Paul Young and Roger Gale.

MV PISCATOR

After a period of two years work on the MV Piscator is resumed. The ship lying in the Larnaca harbour in Cyprus. A Dutch crew is aboard the ship, converting it into a floating broadcasting station. The ship should be sailing to Crete for a new (Panamanian?) registration. Keith York, former VOP press officer, said the ship would probably be used for time off the Israeli coast aimed at the Orthodox Jewish community in Israel. The RNI Story is a Scheveningen fishing trawler having a length of 150 ft. The antenna has a height of approx. 100 ft. Already in 1997 the ship housed a studio which wasn't fully completed. Work was then carried out under the authority of a religious organisation but was ceased because of the well-known financial problems many projects suffered from in the past. It's not clear whether the same organisation is responsible for resuming work on the vessel. For more info regarding the Israeli (Offshore) Radio scene take a look at: www.offshoreradio.co.uk/Israel.htm. Latest news: the local Larnaca (Cyprus) police visited the ship investigating whether the ship was fully equipped for broadcasting purposes. The Israeli ambassador urged for that. Because a number of vital tx parts were lacking, no further action was undertaken. According to a source, the Piscator is due to leave Cyprus heading for an anchorage of the Israeli coast.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Return of Radio Luxembourg?

Already in August rumours were circulating about a return of the legendary Radio Luxembourg. The station left the AM airwaves back in 1999, the station continued on the Astra satellite only but one year later that adventure came to an end and "Luxy 2000" closed down for good. We had hoped to include the latest news before going to the printer but that didn't reach us in time. Keep an eye on 1440 and on the Astra satellite... More news in December (hopefully!).

John Peel 60

Thursday August 18th John Peel celebrated his 60th birthday. August 29th BBC 2 Television paid attention to John's birthday. Radio One did the same two days later with a special 4 hour broadcast. The TV coverage contained lots of archive stuff including Radio London picture.

Delta Radio 171: start in Summer 2000?

The commercial radio station Delta 171 expects to be kicking off next Summer. Tens will be aired on long wave. In the mean time it is announced the headquarters will be housed in Amsterdam. Construction of the tx which will be operational from a site outside the Dutch 12 mile limit off Walcheren, will soon begin. Maximum power is 2000 kW. Tens are beamed into the UK with a format of popular music which will be a mix of the stations Radio 3 & Radio 538 on one side and Sky Radio (soft pop) on the other. Pss are aimed at the listeners in the age group 15-35 years. Pss are presented from British soil.

Annual Dutch Radio Day...

will be held in the Koningszaal, de Plantage Middenlaan 43 Amsterdam on Saturday March 25th 2000. This is in contrast with other years when it was organized in Haarlem. Details will follow within a few months. More info via SMC: tel: +31 20 6621141.

Sources: Hans Knot/FRW, TTS MediaPro, FRN, SRS-News, M-Visie, RNI, FRSH. The upcoming issue is out mid December!!

FRS Sales Productions offers a wide range of recordings related to the 25th birthday of the close down of Varadero, R.N.I. & Atlantic. We also offer Caroline recordings from August 1999. For more info contact us at P.O. Box 2727, 6049 ZG Herten in the Netherlands. For DM 3.00/3 IRCs/£ 1.00 we'll forward the complete 20+page lists.